

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 OES-02 EB-04 SP-02 L-01
INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 DLOS-02
NSC-05 IO-06 /053 W
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R 070605Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5947
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 2782

LIMDIS

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, ECON, PBOR, NO, UR
SUBJECT: SVALBARD FPZ AND GREY ZONE DEVELOPMENTS

REF: OSLO 2404 AND PREVIOUS

1. SUMMARY: A JUNE 1 PROTEST NOTE FROM THE EC COMMISSION ALLEGING GON DISCRIMINATION IN IMPLEMENTING FISHERIES PROTECTION ZONE (FPZ) REGULATIONS AND PUBLIC CHARGES BY THE NORWEGIAN TRAWLER OWNERS AND THE FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS NOT COMPLYING WITH THE TERMS OF THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT HAVE ENLIVENED AN OTHERWISE QUIET PERIOD WITH REPECT TO BARENTS SEA ACTIVITIES. END SUMMARY

2. THE EC NOTE PROTESTED STRICTER ENFORCEMENT OF FPZ REGULA-
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TIONS FOR EC FISHING VESSELS THAN FOR SOVIET VESSELS AND LACK OF CONSULTATION ON THE SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR THE FPZ REGULATIONS. THIS CAME AS A SURPRISE TO THE GON WHO FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN EXTERMELY THOROUGH ABOUT CONSULTATIONS WITH ALL INTERESTED PARTIES, BUT HAVE BEEN CAREFUL TO STATE THAT AS THE SOVEREIGN POWER NORWAY MUST IMPOSE FPZ REGULATIONS IN THE FIRST

INSTANCE. THE GON HAS MADE CLEAR ITS WILLINGNESS TO MODIFY THE REGULATIONS WHERE OTHER PLAYERS CAN PRESENT CONVINCING SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE IN JUSTIFICATION.

3. THE GON RECOGNIZES, HOWEVER, THAT THE EC HAS A POINT IN CHARGING DISCRIMINATION SO LONG AS SOVIET VESSELS DO NOT REPORT CATCHES ON AN INDIVIDUAL VESSEL BASIS. AT THE NEST (JUNE 12) MEETING OF THE JOINT SOVIET/NORWEGIAN FISHERIES COMMISSION THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO WORK OUT A COMPROMISE ON REPORTING AS DESCRIBED PARA 6, OSLO 2226 WHICH WILL ALLOW THE SOVIETS TO SUBMIT DATA ON CATCHES WITHOUT IMPLICITLY ASSOCIATING THE SOVIET UNION WITH THE NORWEGIAN FPZ DEMARCA-TION. IF SOME SORT OF GENERAL REGIME CAN BE WORKED OUT THE GON WILL PROPOSE TO THE EC AND OTHERS THAT THE FPZ REPORTING RULES BE MODIFIED SO THAT ALL COUNTRIES FOLLOW THE SAME SYSTEM. (ALTHOUGH IF COUNTRIES PROVE UNABLE TO SUPPLY RELIABLE CENTRALIZED DATA, THE POSSIBILITY OF REQUIRING VESSEL BY VESSEL REPORTING OF CATCHES REMAINS OPEN.)

4. THE PROTEST BY THE TRAWLER OWNERS AND THE FISHERMEN THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT LIVING UP TO THE TERMS OF THE GREY ZONE AGREEMENT HAS IMPLICATIONS THAT ARE MORE TROUBLESOME FOR THE GON. ALTHOUGH THERE IS QUOTE NO CONFIRMED EVIDENCE UNQUOTE THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE VIOLATING THE AGREEMENT, IT IS CLEAR ACCORDING TO FISHERIES MINISTRY SOURCES THAT THE RUSSIANS ARE USING SMALLER THAN NAEFC AGREED NET SIZES
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IN THE GREY ZONE (AND ELSEWHERE, INCLUDING THEIR OWN WATERS). THE PRINCIPLE EVIDENCE OF THIS IS THE ACTIVITY ON PROCESSING VESSELS THAT IS SEEN TO BE AT A HIGHER LEVEL THAN ON SIMILAR SHIPS OF THOSE NATIONS THAT ARE KNOWN TO BE ABIDING BY THE NEAFC STANDARDS. HOWEVER, A DEMAND BY THE FISHERMEN THAT ON-BOARD INSPECTION BE REQUIRED ON SOVIET VESSELS HAS BEEN REJECTED BY THE GON ON THE GROUNDS RECIPROCITY GIVING THE SOVIETS ENFORCEMENT RIGHTS WEST OF THE SECTOR LINE WOULD BE CALLED FOR. LOS MINISTRY INFORMANTS BELIEVE THAT SOVIET VESSELS ARE ALMOST CERTAINLY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 2782

LIMDIS

BRUSSELS FOR USEC

INSTRUCTED TO OBEY NEAFC CONSERVATION MEASURES; STRICT
MINIMUM CATCHES AND OTHER PRESSURES FORCE SOVIET CAPTAINS
TO TAKE SHORT CUTS, HOWEVER. THE GON WILL PRESENT ITS
CONCERNS REGARDING THIS SUBJECT DURING THE JUNE 12
JPOINT FISHERIES MEETING.

5. FISHERIES MINISTER BOLLE WILL HEAD THE GON TEAM
AT THE JUNE 12 MEETING (WHICH WILL INCLUDE A VISIT BY
THE DELEGATION TO MURMANSK TO VISIT SOVIET FISH PROCESSING
PLANTS). BY DECISION OF THE KING IN COUNCIL ON JUNE 5,
BOLLE WILL BE EMPOWERED TO SIGN AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES
FORMALIZING A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE GREY ZONE AGREE-
MENT. THE SOVIETS ARE EXPECTED TO INSIST ON BOLLE HIMSELF
SIGNING THE EXTENSION; IF THEY DO NO, BOLLE WILL AGREE IN PRINCIPLE
TO AN EXTENSION AND RATIFICATION WILL FOLLOW BY AN EXCHANGE OF
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NOTES BETWEEN
THE NORWEGIAN EMBASSY AND MFA IN MOSCOW AT A LATER DATE.)
STORING RATIFICATION OF THE EXTENSION IS NOT REQUIRED,
BUT THE EXPANDED FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE WILL BE
ASKED TO DISCUSS THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION PRIOR TO
BOLLE'S DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW.

6. COMMENT: THE GON CONTINUES TO HOPE THAT WHILE THE
RUSSIANS REJECT A SVALBARD FPZ IMPOSED BY NORWAY, THEY
TILL TACITLY HONOR CONSERVATION MEASURES THAT ARE PRE-
SENTED AS GENERAL RULES BASED ON NEAFC DECISIONS. THE

ICE IS NOW GONE FROM THE TRAWL FREE ZONES AROUND BEAR ISLAND AND THE SOUTHERN PART OF SVALBARD'S WEST COAST (PARA3, REFTTEL) AND SOVIET VESSELS HAVE BEEN SIGHTED IN THE AREA, THOUGH NOT WITHIN THE NO-FISHING ZONES. WHETHER THIS REFLECTS DELIBERATE POLICY OR MERLY CHANCE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IS UNKNOWN, BUT THE GON CONTINUES TO HOPE FOR THE BEST. DISSATISFACTION ON THE PART OF THE NORWEGIAN FISHERMEN WITH THE WAY THE GREY ZONE IS WORKING OUT HOWEVER, CLEARLY CALLS INTO QUESTION LOS MINISTER JENS EVENSEN'S USEFULNESS TO THE GOVERNMENT. HIS RATIONALE FOR THE AGREEMENT FROM THE START HAS BEEN THAT THE POLITICALLY POWERFUL FISHERMEN DEMAND IT. THIS DISSATISFACTION MUST CLEARLY BE A CONTRIBUTING FACTOR TO EVENSEN'S SCHEDULED (BUT NOT YET WIDELY KNOWN PUBLICLY) DEPARTURE FROM THE SCENE SHORTLY. LERNER

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